**Internet Telephony**

3247. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the concept of Internet Telephony and how it is different from conventional telephone network;

(b) whether Government have any policy guidelines on Internet Telephony and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any future plans to promote Internet Telephony more aggressively and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Internet Telephony is a Type of Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony in which principle transmission network is public Internet. Conventional Telephone Network uses Circuit Switching while Internet Telephony uses Packet Switching.

(b) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were allowed to offer Restricted Internet telephony service in April 2002. As per the Licence for provision of Internet Service (including Internet telephony), Internet Telephony is a service to process and carry voice signals offered through public Internet by use of Personal Computer (PC) of IP based Customer Premises Equipments (CPE) connecting the following:

(i) PC to PC: within or outside India

(ii) PC in India to Telephone outside India

(iii) IP based H.323/Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) Terminals connected directly to ISP nodes to similar Terminals; within or outside India.

(c) Government has recently announced that Access Service Provider can provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services and Broadband Services.

**Revival of I.T.I.**

3248. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's largest telecom equipment manufacturing company ITI was established in 1948 and is India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU);

(b) whether this company is making losses for more than a decade;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount of accumulated loss of this company as on 31st March, 2005;

(e) whether Government have taken any measures to revive this India's first PSU; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Company incurred losses from 1994-95 to 1996-97. For the next five years *i.e.* from 1997-98 to 2001-02 the Company made marginal profits. Again since 2002-2003 the Company has been incurring losses. The details of profits/(loss) of the Company for the last ten years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

The reasons for losses were:

(i) Excessive manpower.

(ii) Falling demand for fixed line.

(iii) Obsolete products portfolio.

(d) The accumulated loss as on 31.3.2005 is Rs. 1358 crore.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government had taken following salient measures:

(i) Sanctioned a revival package amounting to Rs. 1024.77 crore to the company during the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Reservation quota is given by BSNL/MTNL to ITI for the products manufactured by ITI.

(iii) Advance payments to ITI on Reservation quota orders.

***Statement***

*Details of profits (loss) of the Company for the last ten years*

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl. No. | Year | Profit/(Loss) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1994-1995 | (82) |
| 2. | 1995-1996 | (284) |

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl. No. | Year | Profit/(Loss) |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | 1996-1997 | (51) |
| 4. | 1997-1998 | 15 |
| 5. | 1998-1999 | 27 |
| 6. | 1999-2000 | 46 |
| 7. | 2000-2001 | 28 |
| 8. | 2001-2002 | 22 |
| 9. | 2002-2003 | (375) |
| 10. | 2003-2004 | (706) |
| 11. | 2004-2005 | (310) |

( ) Indicate Losses.

**Quality of powerline communication**

3249. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of power lines for communications on the pattern of PLCC;

(b) if so, will that render the optical fiber network of the operators redundant; and

(c) the quality of power line communication as compared with the optical fiber communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per available information, optical fiber cables placed inside earth conductor of power lines can be used for providing communications for long haul network.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Subject to proper engineering, the quality is likely to be same, as electric power does not effect the light waves travelling across the optical fiber cable.

**Link road to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan**

3250. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the historic Sikh Gurudwara